

Appl. No. 10/643,559
Amdt. Dated Oct. 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 27, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A supporting column for supporting substrates, comprising:

a main body having a C-shaped cross section and defining an axial bore along an axis direction, and
a stiff shaft being received in the axial bore,
wherein the main body comprises a half-sleeve shaft and a plurality of parallel wing panels encircling portions of the half-sleeve shaft, and each wing panel includes a protrusion in a middle of the wing panel.

Claim 2 (original): The supporting column as described in claim 1, wherein the wing panels are spaced apart from one another a predetermined distance and are formed perpendicular to the half-sleeve shaft.

Claim 3 (original): The supporting column as described in claim 1, wherein a shape of the wing panels is round, approximately round, or tongue-shaped.

Claim 4 (original): The supporting column as described in claim 1, wherein a size of the protrusion gradually decreases from the half-sleeve shaft to the edge of the wing panels.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The supporting column as described in claim 1, wherein the protrusion of each wing panel is shaped as a conicity or a hill.

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Claim 6 (original): The supporting column as described in claim 1, wherein the stiff shaft is made of metal.

Claim 7 (original): The supporting column as described in claim 1, wherein the stiff shaft defines threaded holes in opposite ends thereof.

Claims 8-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previous presented): The supporting column as described in claim 1, wherein the half-sleeve shaft of the main body has holding portions, the holding portions extend along a circumference of the stiff shaft beyond half circumference.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The supporting column as described in claim 16, wherein the holding portions space apart each other in the axis direction.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A supporting column for supporting substrates, comprising:

- a main body having a C-shaped cross section and defining an axial bore along an axis direction, and

- a stiff shaft being received in the axial bore,

- wherein the main body comprises a half-sleeve shaft and a plurality of parallel wing panels encircling portions of the half-sleeve shaft, and each wing panel includes a strip-like protrusion extending upon an upper face thereof along a direction from a root portion of each wing panel to an outer edge thereof in a tapered and thinned manner.